Community energy projects are emerging across Indi. Renewable energy also provides local communities the opportunity to store the renewable energy in Indi. Commercial-scale projects are helping to increase generation and supply of renewable energy in Indi.

Community energy projects can share information with and learn from other projects throughout Indi by participating in the electorate, where community energy projects connect with and support each other. But communities can’t do it on their own in a largely volunteer capacity, and nor should they. Strategic support provided to communities can go along way. Modelling indicates that every dollar of government investment in community energy can leverage $10-$17 of community investment. The community, government and industry can help fast track Indi’s totally renewable future.

**WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS?**

A number of major barriers to the development of community energy projects in Indi have been identified and need to be urgently addressed, including:

- Community energy is not adequately recognised in Federal Government policy.
- Government funding for community energy is currently insufficient - it lacks national strategy and coordination, is sporadic and unpredictable, and the application process is a laborious one.
- Recognition is needed of the barriers to effective pricing practices - better reflecting solar grid parity and the efficiency of locally generated renewable energy.
- Lack of support for Community Energy Retailers in limiting the potential value of mini-grids - accessibility to the National Electricity Market (NEM) is needed to provide a broader perspective of community energy projects from accessing top-up power from other sources.
- Agreed Renewable Energy Targets (RET) are needed.
- Recognise mini grid models (such as TRY) as a legitimate mechanism for energy supply.

**HOW CAN WE GET THERE TOGETHER FASTER?**

1. **Participate in community energy projects across Indi.**
   - Indi residents can initiate community conversations, attend workshops, join a committee, and sign up to a program offering subsidised solar panels and batteries.

2. **Increase collaboration with other community energy projects.**
   - Community energy projects can share information with and learn from other projects throughout Indi by participating in the electorate, where community energy projects connect with and support each other. But communities can’t do it on their own in a largely volunteer capacity, and nor should they. Strategic support provided to communities can go along way. Modelling indicates that every dollar of government investment in community energy can leverage $10-$17 of community investment. The community, government and industry can help fast track Indi’s totally renewable future.

3. **Increase lobbying of your local governments for stronger leadership on renewable energy.**
   - Includes increased support for community energy projects.

4. **Introduce a National Energy Policy.**
   - Bipartisan and nationally coordinated to provide long term certainty at the policy level.
   - Agree Renewable Energy Targets (RET).
   - Recognise community energy for addressing energy supply, cost, and sustainability issues.
   - Represent grid and renewable energy potential.

5. **Improve and increase support to community energy projects and Community Energy Retailers.**
   - Enable community energy projects to access the National Electricity Market (NEM).
   - Support Community Energy Solutions to allow mini grids to access top up power from other sources.
   - Improve Federal - State Government alignment and coordination of funding for community energy projects, to reduce the administrative, compliance and financial burdens.

6. **Increase stimulus for renewable energy infrastructure developments.**
   - Government support for infrastructure that will make renewable energy more accessible.
   - Increase stimulus for renewable energy infrastructure developments.

7. **Increase investment in renewable energy projects in Indi.**
   - Large solar farm and battery storage, pumped hydro, solar and battery micro grids.

8. **Strengthen partnerships with community energy projects in Indi.**
   - Industry financial support, Innovation are vital to the success of community energy projects in Indi. Industry support will help connect community energy projects with other industry partners before the community energy projects can connect with other industry partners.
   - Support the ‘Indi Community Energy Hub’ to create jobs and up-skill local residents, and build the capacity of Indi communities to reach a totally renewable future.

**Communities of Indi creating a future of 100% Renewable Energy**

- **Affordable**
- **Reliable and secure**
- **Great for the local economy**
- **Great for our environment**

**TOWARDS A TOTALLY RENEWABLE INDI**

A case study in community action (March 2018)

**HOW ARE WE TRACKING?**

The world is rapidly moving towards a clean energy future and Indi is helping to lead this positive change.

Electricity generated from non-renewable, finite resources [e.g. coal] is being replaced by electricity generated from renewable sources. Renewable energy is produced using natural resources - solar, wind, waves, etc. Non-renewable energy sources allow households and businesses to generate electricity, see what those energy sources are.

This energy revolution has been evolving for decades. Osborne Flats resident Susan Banks recalled her first hot water system in 1961, and how it helped her family to stop using coal to heat water. "They're not around now. We're really lucky to have them."

A number of major barriers to the development of community energy projects in Indi have been identified and need to be urgently addressed, including:

- Demonstration that clean energy technologies work and that a clean, low carbon energy future is possible.
- Community energy (or community renewable energy) is a system of energy supply and distribution that is largely owned and managed by the local community. The goals of community energy are:
  - Decentralise the energy supply via renewable energy
  - Democratise energy governance through community ownership
  - Demonstrate that clean energy technologies work and that a clean, low carbon energy future is possible.

**WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS?**

- Viability of a community energy project often depends on access to storage - be it battery or pumped-hydro. The government has a role in subsidising and supporting investment in storage technologies.

- The current capacity of the power distribution network is a concern. Businesses across Indi, including those in Wodonga, are having an impact on power security and viability.

- Renewable energy sources allow households and businesses to generate electricity, see what those energy sources are.

**HOW CAN WE GET THERE TOGETHER FASTER?**

- Be it battery or pumped-hydro. The government has a role in subsidising and supporting investment in storage technologies.

- Cross subsidisation of rural areas, peak load and threats to supply and distribution that is largely owned and managed by the local community.

- Accessibility to the National Electricity Market (NEM) is needed to provide a broader perspective of community energy projects from accessing top-up power from other sources.

- Support Community Energy Solutions to allow mini grids to access top up power from other sources.

- Improve Federal - State Government alignment and coordination of funding for community energy projects, to reduce the administrative, compliance and financial burdens.

- Government support for infrastructure that will make renewable energy more accessible.

- Increase stimulus for renewable energy infrastructure developments.

- Industry financial support, Innovation are vital to the success of community energy projects in Indi. Industry support will help connect community energy projects with other industry partners before the community energy projects can connect with other industry partners.

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- **Great for our environment**
Over 30% of Indi households have already installed solar PV systems, double the Victorian average.

And that’s just part of the story...